



REPORTS

OF

The Town Officers

OF THE

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

1896.



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN,
Overseers of Poor and Assessors
OF THE
TOWN OF NORTHFIELD,
TOGETHER WITH
Reports of the School Committee, Library
Committee and Town Treasurer,
FOR THE
Year ending February 14, 1896.

GARDNER, MASS.:
PRINTED BY THE GARDNER NEWS COMPANY.
1896.

Report of Selectmen.

TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTHFIELD:

We herewith submit to you for your consideration our report for the year ending Feb. 14th, 1896. We have, in some instances, exceeded appropriations, for there has been, as in all previous years, unforeseen emergencies which we were obliged to meet; but we make no excuses, for we think, as a whole, our financial situation very favorable.

Town Warrant.

March 2d, 1896—9 o'clock A. M.

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear the reports of the various Town Officers.

ART. 3. To choose all necessary Town Officers.

ART. 4. To vote by separate ballot, "Yes," or "No," in answer to the question: "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town?"

ART. 5. To see if the Town will accept as a public way a street to be known as Pine street, as laid out by the Selectmen Nov. 25th, 1895, and raise and appropriate money therefor, or act thereon.

ART. 6. To raise such sums of money as shall be necessary to defray Town charges for the ensuing year.

ART. 7. To see if the Town will vote leave to the citizens to form a "Village Improvement Society," or act thereon.

ART. 8. To see if the Town will accept of the Jury List as revised, or act thereon.

ART. 9. To see what action the Town will take in regard to discount or interest on taxes, or act thereon.

ART. 10. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to make temporary loans.

ART. 11. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to be applied on the Town debt.

ART. 12. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate money to gravel Main street, or act thereon.

ART. 13. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for Memorial Day.

ART. 14. To see what action the Town will take relative to the Treasurer's salary, or act thereon.

ART. 15. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for the care and improvement of the Cemeteries, and a Committee be chosen to expend the same, or act thereon.

ART. 16. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for fencing and laying out into lots the Cemetery at the Farms.

ART. 17. To see if the Town will loan books from their Library to School District No 4, to be kept at their Library for the use of said District and others in said Town, and appropriate a sum of money for the care of the same.

C. H. GREEN,	}	<i>Selectmen of Northfield.</i>
O. L. LEACH,		
H. C. HOLTON,		

Jury List for 1896.

Charles L. Banks,
Roswell E. Dickenson,
Melvin J. Collier,
James L. Hammond,
Edward B. Murdock,
Francis J. Stockbridge,
Charles C. Stearns,
Cola R. Nelson,
Oren Darling,
Edward S. Bardwell,
Hiland R. Crowell,
Ambert G. Moody,
William D. Morgan,

James T. Cummings,
John H. Bolton,
Arthur W. Proctor,
Frank E. Heald,
Charles P. Britton,
Sumner L. Gates,
Fred. Z. Allen,
Sanford W. Weatherhead.
James Wall,
John H. Eames,
Henry H. Nash,
Alonzo A. Newton,
Charles L. Gilbert.

Assessors' Report.

Valuation of real estate,	\$799,867 00
Valuation of personal estate,	94,185 00
Total valuation May 1, 1895,	\$894,052 00

Number of polls,	507
persons assessed,	760
persons assessed on property,	600
persons assessed for poll-tax only,	160
resident taxpayers,	468
non-resident taxpayers,	132
horses assessed,	556
cows assessed,	670
sheep assessed,	281
neat cattle assessed,	285
swine assessed,	253
dwellings assessed,	419
acres of land assessed,	19,638

ASSESSMENT FOR 1895.

State tax,	\$585 00
County tax,	1,344 82
	\$1,929 82

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1895.

Schools in general,	\$2,800 00
repairs,	300 00
text books and supplies,	300 00
conveyance,	100 00
Superintendent,	270 00

Contingent and support of poor,	\$3,000 00
Highways, general repairs,	2,000 00
New iron bridge railings, etc.,	250 00
Cemeteries,	175 00
Library,	175 00
Library, special,	50 00
Decoration Day,	50 00
Payment on Town debt,	500 00
Overlay,	478 57
	\$10,448 57
Raised on polls,	\$1,014 00
personal estate,	1,199 86
real estate,	10,164 53
	\$12,378 39

Taxes on each poll, \$2.00.

Rate on \$1,000, \$12.70.

C. H. GREEN,	}	<i>Assessors of Northfield.</i>
O. L. LEACH,		
H. C. HOLTON,		

Report of Overseers of the Poor.

MARY PIERSON :		
Worcester Asylum, care to Jan. 1, 1896,		\$169 46
COLEMAN C. SMITH :		
Northampton Hospital, care to Jan. 1, 1896,		169 46
JOHN QUINLAN :		
Northampton Hospital, care to Jan. 1, 1896,		47 35
CHARLES PARKER :		
Mass. State Farm, care to Jan. 1, 1896,		146 00
MRS. ELECTA R. STRATTON (Westboro) :		
Mrs. J. E. Lincoln, care to Feb. 1, 1896,		60 00
MRS. GEORGE DOOLITTLE'S CHILDREN :		
Mrs. George Doolittle, care to Feb. 5, 1896,		96 00
A. H. RICHARDS (Winchendon) :		
Town of Winchendon, medical assistance,	\$26 82	
G. Q. A. Bryant, goods furnished,	64 80	
Baxter Robinson & Son, goods furnished,	55 39	
C. H. Green, expenses to Winchendon,	2 80	
		149 81
WATSON FAMILY (Watertown) :		
Town of Watertown, aid rendered,		113 95
ARTHUR WHITNEY (Lowell) :		
City of Lowell, medical assistance,		2 50
MRS. ALVA KIMPLIN (Bernardston) :		
Town of Bernardston, rent to Jan. 1, 1896,		25 00

JAMES BYRENS :

John R. Casey, board and care,	\$6 00	
R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	1 00	
C. H. Webster & Co., goods furnished,	1 75	
C. H. Green, expenses to Tewksbury,	9 92	
		\$18 67

DWIGHT COOK (Montague)

Town of Montague, aid rendered,		98 00
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CHARLES LORD :

F. V. Doolittle, board to Feb. 1, 1896,	\$92 12	
C. H. Webster & Co., goods furnished,	9 35	
		101 47

MRS. JAMES MATTOON :

W. J. Wright, Treas., aid furnished,		72 00
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ASA KENISTON :

C. H. Webster & Co., goods furnished,	\$24 33	
H. R. Crowell, goods furnished,	50	
Green & Severance, hay and grain,	11 55	
R. W. Bixby, milk,	4 20	
Arnold Holton, rent,	4 00	
C. M. Baldwin, wood,	2 28	
R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	41 85	
Mrs. Ella Baldwin, care,	14 67	
Mrs. Hatstat, care,	4 50	
Mrs. Charles Briggs, care,	1 00	
F. E. Stimpson, conveyance,	1 00	
		109 88

WILLIAM J. SMITH :

W. B. Pratt, rent and wood,	\$54 60	
W. J. Wright, Treas., aid rendered,	15 00	
R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	21 25	
Caldwell Bros., team,	1 00	
H. E. Bond, casket,	12 00	
		103 85

MRS. MARY A. SMITH :

Ozro H. Doolittle, board and care,	\$90 00	
R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	2 50	
		92 50

JOHANNA DRISCOLL :

Ozro H. Doolittle, board and care,	\$92 50	
R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	3 00	
W. J. Wright, Treas., aid rendered,	19 50	
		\$115 00

GARDNER COLLIER :

Green & Severance, hay and grain,	\$24 27	
C. H. Webster & Co., goods furnished,	4 28	
		28 55

MRS. ELLEN O'KEEFE :

W. J. Wright, Treas., aid rendered,	\$71 75	
R. C. Ward, medical attendance,	2 00	
		73 79

MRS. CHAUNCEY KIMPLIN :

W. J. Wright, Treas., aid rendered,		42 00
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GEORGE WHITAKER :

George L. Fuller, burial,		1 50
		\$1,857 95

CR.

By cash from C. H. Green, account Mary Pearson,	\$83 93	
By amount due from Alexander Pearson, account Mary Pearson,	85 53	
By cash from Town of Ashby, account Asa Keniston,	109 88	
		279 34
Total expense of poor,		\$1,536 11

C. H. GREEN,	} Overseers of Poor of Northfield.
O. L. LEACH,	
H. C. HOLTON,	

Contingent Expenses.

M. C. Miller, water rent, 1894-5,	\$10 00	
George H. Hilliard, water rent,	5 00	
H. B. Parker, water rent,	3 00	
E. C. Field, water rent, 1894-5,	10 00	
E. W. Smith, water rent, 1894-5,	8 00	
Amanda Webster, water rent,	5 00	
Northfield Aqueduct Company, water rent,	10 00	
		\$51 00
Fred W. Doane, coal,		17 40
George Tyler & Co., parts for scraper,		20 60
Henry H. Mason, cover stools,		6 00
George E. Foster & Co., safe,		45 00
George W. Southworth, Assessor's books,		3 65
Samuel Hobbs & Co., stationery,		6 00
Charles E. Pierce, stationery,		2 50
Fred Hallett & Co., stationery,	\$2 50	
printing Town reports,	35 20	
		37 70
C. C. Stearns, amount paid for wrappers,		4 40
Cecil T. Bagnall, printing,		5 95
George S. Hatch, dies, Sealer Weights and Measures,		1 50
W. D. Morgan, tables,		4 17
E. R. & E. H. Tarbell, chandeliers,		56 25
C. H. Webster & Co., goods as per bill,	\$35 80	
C. H. Webster, insurance,	119 25	
		155 05
E. S. Bardwell, freight and express,		8 83
Central Vt. R. R. tolls,		3 79
J. S. DeFord, repairs on derrick,		2 95
K. E. Nims, repairs on scraper,		3 75

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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George H. Alexander, repairing chimneys on Town Hall,	\$9 30	
W. H. Holton, cleaning and repairing town clock,	15 00	
Ryan Bros., repairs at Town Hall,	4 29	
J. F. Bartlett, painting Town Hall,	\$175 00	
setting glass, painting fence, settees		
and hearse-house,	81 00	
		256 00
F. S. Stevens, work on fence and settees,		28 54
Ira H. Ewers, pair oars,		2 00
F. E. Stimpson, account Garvey,		5 00
William F. Flint, surveying,		4 00
A. W. Adams, return of auctioneer's license,		2 00
George P. Mattoon, error in taxes, 1895,		10 00
Charles Pomeroy, abatement of tax, Perry farm,		4 00
M. T. Moore, discount and abatement of taxes,		
1894,	\$453 87	
discount and abatement of taxes,		
1895,	364 73	
		818 60
C. R. Nelson, running town line,	\$2 00	
H. W. Montague, running town line,	2 00	
		4 00
Jas. T. Cummings, services as auditor and fire warden,		7 50
R. C. Ward, services as inspector,		129 00
C. C. Stearns, services as auditor,	\$2 50	
services as election officer,	2 50	
making two copies of valuation book,	21 00	
		26 00
George J. Bacon, services as election officer,		2 50
C. L. Robbins, services as election officer,		2 50
George B. Callender, services as election officer,		2 50
W. D. Crane, services as registrar,		6 25
A. R. Lyman, services as registrar,		11 25
F. J. Stockbridge, services as registrar,		11 25
T. R. Callender, services as registrar,	\$5 00	
services as election officer,	2 50	
		7 50
John R. Casey, officer's fees,	\$1 00	
services as election officer, 1894-5,	5 00	
care of tramps to Feb. 14,	65 40	
		71 40

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

M. T. Moore, services as constable and collector,		
1894,	\$123 00	
services as constable and collector,		
1895,	131 00	
		\$254 00
R. K. Caldwell, posting warrants,	\$9 00	
services as school committee,	18 75	
		27 75
Nellie M. Wood, services as school committe,		29 00
L. R. Smith, services as school committee,		64 94
F. A. Hilliard, services as sexton,		2 00
H. H. Mason, officer's fees,	\$9 96	
driving hearse to Jan. 1,	33 00	
		42 96
W. J. Wright, return of births,	\$8 75	
Gorley property,	42 74	
cash items,	15 70	
services as clerk and treasurer,	150 25	
		217 44
H. C. Holton, cash items,	14 85	
services as selectman,	85 50	
		100 35
O. L. Leach, cash items,	\$2 00	
services as selectman,	75 75	
		77 75
C. H. Green, cash items,	\$26 40	
services as selectman,	99 50	
		125 90
		\$2,818 96

Military and State Aid.

Charles X. Janes, military aid,	\$72 00
William Strange, state aid,	48 00
Daniel W. Burnham, state aid,	24 00
Thomas H. Hart,	48 00
Emeline Mattoon, state aid,	28 00
Roswell Stratton, state aid,	20 00
	\$240 00

Cemeteries.

H. W. Montague and others, labor,	\$6 28
H. H. Mason, labor,	22 55
S. K. Sawyer,	15 52
Benjamin Morrison, labor,	2 00
James Barry, labor,	75
Patsey McCarthy, labor,	4 12
Frank Perould, labor,	6 00
Amos Bigelow, labor,	22 76
O. E. Slate, labor,	3 45
G. H. Baldwin, labor,	1 50
H. C. Holton, painting,	18 40
Fred H. Turner, painting.	11 75
C. H. Webster & Co., paint,	3 00
H. R. Crowell, paint,	8 95
Newcomb Bros, paint,	11 50
	\$138 53

Cemetery at Farms.

(Enlargement.)

W. S. Osgood, land damage,	\$100 00
County commissioners, services,	15 80
C. W. Clapp, survey and plan,	12 30
	\$128 10

Highways.

D. L. Preston and others, work on highway,	\$33 50
Ansel Collier and others, work on highway,	147 91
E. E. Howes and others, work on highway,	7 20
W. W. Montague and others, work on highway,	98 49
F. A. Hilliard and others, work on highway,	186 82
C. I. Holton and others, work on highway,	93 86
J. A. Holland and others, work on highway,	28 49
C. P. Britton and others, work on highway,	167 74
John R. Casey and man, work on highway,	292 10
Frank Perould, work on highway,	2 10
Henry Stimpson, work on highway,	6 30
Perley Stimpson, work on highway,	4 05
Amos Whitaker, work on highway,	75
William Grace, work on highway,	75
George Murdock, work on highway,	7 74
Terrence Coughlin, work on highway,	1 95
S. S. Fisher, work on highway,	4 95
John Crelan, work on highway,	4 20
Ed. O'Keefe, work on highway,	1 43
H. C. Holton, work on highway,	99 83
Ira H. Ewers, work on highway,	11 05
Hiram Johnson, work on highway,	2 78
O. S. Davis, work on highway,	12 25
H. D. Field, work on highway,	312 00
William Burrows, work on highway,	14 50
Gardner Collier, work on highway,	27 30
James Wall, work on highway,	13 00
Amos Bigelow, work on highway,	11 20
F. E. Stimpson, work on highway,	5 25
James Barry, work on highway,	22 35
Patrick Coughlin, work on highway,	18 80
Wright Arlin, work on highway,	24 45
Burton A. Spencer, work on highway,	2 80

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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Patsey McCarthy, work on highway,	\$ 75
Frank B. Streeter, work on highway,	3 75
George A. Stearns, work on highway,	13 30
John H. Robbins, work on highway,	2 25
Charles Strange, work on highway,	1 00
George H. Slate, work on highway,	8 70
Charles W. Slate, work on highway,	9 45
Oscar E. Slate, work on highway,	14 55
F. V. Wood, work on highway,	2 25
Isaac Murdock, work on highway,	36 57
John Casey, work on highway,	7 35
Jason Bump, for work on highway,	14 25
John H. Dalton, for work on highway,	32 90
Charles Pomeroy estate, for work on highway,	5 25
James W. Cowles, for work on highway,	5 00
John Grace, work on highway,	75
Frank Williamson, work on highway,	3 50
C. R. Pomeroy, work on highway,	28 52
F. W. Doane, work on highway,	14 00
E. L. Cosgrove, work on highway,	1 35
Thomas Quinlan, work on highway,	14 00
William Bain, work on highway,	7 35
Daniel O'Keefe, work on highway,	3 00
Leon Pratt, work on highway,	1 53
David Clowes, labor on bound stones,	7 50
F. B. Holton, labor on bound stones,	13 82
J. W. Black, sharpening drills, etc.,	4 80
J. S. DeFord, sharpening drills, etc.,	5 85
Seminary, work on highway,	50 61
A. D. Stearns, repairs on ferryboat,	41 05
	\$2,022 84

Material.

A. D. Stearns, railing,	\$3 00
M. T. Moore, stone,	2 00
H. N. F. Marshall, bound stone,	10 69
Green & Severance, cement,	50
George J. Bacon, plank,	12 80
Ansel Collier, plank,	28 80
C. R. Nelson, plank,	3 00
	\$60 79
	\$2,083 63

Railing and Wall at Iron Bridge.

Manchester & Ward, railing,	\$75 00	
John R. Casey, self, man and team,	62 03	
Leon Hatstat, labor with team,	5 40	
Cassius M. Baldwin, labor with team,	37 62	
Wright Arlin, labor,	23 25	
E. C. Rugg, labor,	35 00	
George H. Slate, labor,	29 25	
Frank Williamson, labor,	24 00	
John Grace, labor,	4 00	
James P. Campbell, labor,	2 25	
H. C. Holton, labor,	50 00	
F. B. Holton, stone,	36 90	
Green & Severance, cement,	17 60	
Newcomb Bros., paint,	3 15	
H. L. Brigham, painting,	3 40	
		\$408 85

Selectmen's Financial Report.

DR.

Outstanding orders at last settlement,	\$55 44
Orders issued on Town Treasurer since Feb. 10,	
1895,	20,397 62
	\$20,453 06

CR.

Paid for poor,	\$1,836 70
contingent,	2,818 96
highways,	2,083 63
schools,	4,203 03
cemeteries,	138 53
cemetery at Farms,	128 10
railing and wall at iron bridge,	408 85
military and State aid,	240 00
library appropriation,	175 00
library appropriation, special,	50 00
Memorial Day appropriation,	50 00
State tax,	585 00
County tax,	1,344 82
interest on town debt,	135 00
payment on town debt,	500 00
temporary loans,	5,700 00
outstanding orders, 1893,	50 00
Outstanding orders, 1893, not paid,	5 44
	\$20,453 06

C. H. GREEN,	} <i>Selectmen of Northfield.</i>
O. L. LEACH,	
H. C. HOLTON,	

Treasurer's Report.

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD IN ACCOUNT WITH W. J. WRIGHT, TREASURER :

CR.

Balance previous year's account,	\$2,586 43
Received from A. Pierson, account Mary Pierson,	85 82
Town of Ashby, account A. Kiniston,	109 88
Parker D. Martin, trial justice,	
account John Brown,	10 00
C.H.Green, account butchers' licenses,	
Aldrich, Irish and Murdock,	3 00
R. K. Caldwell, collector, account 1893,	
taxes (unsettled),	243 93
State Treasurer, support and burial	
state pauper,	36 22
A. W. Adams, auctioneer's license,	2 00
State Treasurer, cor-	
poration taxes,	\$1,358 66
State Treasurer, na-	
tional bank,	242 89
State Treasurer, state aid,	164 00
	\$1,765 55
C. H. Green, overseer of poor,	
account Mary Pierson,	83 93
E. A. Newcomb, County Treas.,	
account dog fund (returned),	151 15
State Treasurer, account	
state pauper,	\$1 80
State Treasurer, income	
Massachusetts school	
fund,	335 35
	\$337 15
M. T. Moore, collector, account	
interest 1894 taxes,	13 34

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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Received from M. T. Moore, collector, account		
1894 taxes,	\$2,225 00	
Charles H. Green, account C. C.		
Young, butchers' license,	1 00	
Charles H. Green, error,	3 30	
Temporary loans,	4,631 86	
M. T. Moore, collector, account		
1895 taxes,	9,600 00	
		\$21,914 56

DR.

Paid Selectmen's orders,	\$20,397 62	
Selectmen's orders, outstanding,	50 00	
		\$20,447 62
Balance,		\$1,466 94

NORTHFIELD, MASS., Feb. 14th, 1896.

W. J. WRIGHT, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH PICKARD CEMETERY FUND.

(Fund \$100. Interest only available.)

	DR.	CR.
Jan. 27. By cash, interest received,		\$5 08
To cash on hand (bills not rendered),	\$5 08	
	\$5 08	\$5 08

W. J. WRIGHT, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH ALEXANDER CEMETERY FUND.

(Fund \$200. Interest only available.)

	DR.	CR.
Jan. 27. By cash, interest received,		\$8 08
To cash on hand (bills not rendered),	\$8 08	
	\$8 08	\$8 08

NORTHFIELD, MASS., Feb. 14, 1896.

Financial Condition of the Town.

FEBRUARY 14TH, 1896.

Liabilities.

Greenfield Savings Bank,	\$2,600 00	
C. H. Green, selectman,	128 00	
O. L. Leach, selectman,	95 50	
H. C. Holton, selectman,	100 50	
L. R. Smith, school committee,	45 75	
Nellie M. Wood, school committee,	51 73	
R. K. Caldwell, school committee,	43 25	
For schools (estimated),	858 00	
Outstanding orders, 1893,	5 44	
		<u>\$3,928 17</u>

Assets.

Due from M. T. Moore, Collector, account 1894 tax,	\$129 09	
Due from M. T. Moore, Collector, account 1895 tax,	2,782 20	
Due from Alexander Pierson, account Mary Pierson,	85 53	
Due from Town of New Salem,	4 00	
Interest on surplus revenue,	60 00	
Cash in Town treasury,	1,466 94	
		<u>\$4,527 76</u>
Balance in favor of the Town,		<u>\$599 59</u>

REPORT OF THE ELISHA ALEXANDER FUND.

Amount in bank, Feb. 10, 1895,	\$1,068 90	
Interest to July 1st, 1895,	43 16	
		<u>\$1,112 06</u>
Drawn from the bank Dec 9, and paid out as follows :		
Mrs. Jonathan Lyman,	\$10 00	
Mrs. Ella Tufts,	10 00	
Mary and Fanny Field,	10 00	
Mrs. William Stevens,	10 00	
Mrs. Lott May,	5 00	
Hattie and Emma Hilliard,	5 00	
		<u>\$50 00</u>
		<u>\$1,062 06</u>

C. H. GREEN,	} Overseers of Poor of Northfield.
O. L. LEACH,	
H. C. HOLTON,	

Report of the School Committee.

In submitting the annual report of the schools of Northfield for the year ending March, 1896, the committee are pleased to refer the citizens to the report of the superintendent of schools, J. E. Warren, on the present condition of the schools. The committee is well satisfied with the work done, and is fully convinced that special supervision by one conversant with the advanced systems of education has been the great need of the schools of this town.

We most heartily endorse the work of our efficient superintendent, and urgently recommend every parent to know what is being done, by frequent visits to the school-room, and by securing constant attendance on the part of the children.

Our superintendent began his work last May, and it may be of interest for the citizens to know the actual expense he has been to the Town. For the nine months ending Feb. 1st, he has received \$194.67 of the \$270.00 appropriated at your last annual meeting for school supervision. The Town will receive from the state, for the same period of time, \$129.78, leaving \$64.89 as the actual amount expended by the Town for nine months' supervision, a very small amount for a great deal of labor, as a perusal of his report will show you.

Since last November the committee and superintendent have had monthly meetings, usually the afternoon of the third Wednesday of each month. At these meetings the superintendent has reported the condition of the schools and their wants, and any matter pertaining to the welfare of the schools has been discussed and acted upon.

This plan has been the means of systematizing and simplifying the work of the school board. The schools at the end of the present school year will have been in session thirty-five weeks, divided into terms of eleven, fourteen, and ten weeks each, with the exception of No. 9, which was closed at the end of the second term, and the pupils, six in number, placed in the Centre schools. This was thought advisable because of the small number of pupils in the district.

The school buildings, as a whole, are in good condition; school building No. 2 needs and probably will receive considerable attention during the coming year. The furnace in No. 1 building, during the summer, was repaired and partially renewed at a cost of about \$50, the closets connected with this building were thoroughly renovated and repaired, and the building, as a whole, now presents a creditable appearance. Building No. 7 was given a coat of paint outside and within.

Beside the incidental repairs, these are the only repairs made.

In school districts No. 5 and 6 there are young children living in the outskirts of the districts who, in the judgment of the committee, needed assistance in reaching school, so their transportation has been hired at an expense exceeding the appropriation. As the same conditions will exist in the coming year, we ask for an increase of the appropriation for that purpose.

It has been the policy of the committee to only assist those parents who were unable to carry their children.

We recommend for the coming year: For schools, \$2,800; for repairs on school buildings, \$300; for books and supplies, \$300; for conveyance of scholars, \$150; for the salary of the superintendent, \$260.

Respectfully submitted,

L. R. SMITH,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
R. K. CALDWELL,		
NELLIE M. WOOD,		

Financial School Report.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 14, 1896.

Appropriations and Receipts.

In general,	\$2,800 00	
Repairs,	300 00	
Text-books and supplies,	300 00	
Conveyance,	100 00	
Superintendent,	270 00	
		\$3,770 00
Massachusetts School fund,	\$335 35	
Income surplus revenue,	60 00	
Dog fund,	151 15	
		\$546 50
		\$4,316 50

Expenditures.

SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

Eulalia B. Gardner, No 1,	\$129 60
Alice Belden, No 1,	246 50
Lucy Sanderson, No. 2,	203 50
Lucy Perry, No. 3,	187 50
Jennie Pierce, No. 9,	180 00
Nettie Evans, No. 7,	187 50
Lottie Evans, No. 4.	187 50
Minnie White, No. 6,	71 50
Lizzie Caldwell, No. 1,	110 00
Katherine Calaghan, No. 5,	143 00

Elizabeth Wassum, No. 1,	\$139 00
Irene Hackett, No. 1,	168 00
Rosella Barton, No. 6,	84 00
C. Blanche Whittum, No. 1,	36 00
T. H. Miner, music and drawing,	57 00
	\$2,130 60
M. T. Moore, truant officer,	\$3 00
N. P. Wood, medical inspector No. 5,	3 00
	\$6 00

Expended on Previous Account.

M. T. Moore, cleaning,	\$4 00
M. T. Moore, wood Nos. 2 and 3,	12 00
H. R. Crowell, supplies,	1 42
L. L. Pike, carrying scholars,	13 00
Minnie A. White, teaching No. 6,	71 50
Minnie A. White, care of house No. 6,	6 60
Minnie A. White, repairs, No. 6,	35
F. W. Doane, coal No. 1,	18 60
Alice Belden, teaching No. 1,	72 00
Eulalia Gardner, teaching No. 1,	96 00
Mrs. F. B. Caldwell, teaching No. 1,	90 00
S. S. Fisher, carrying scholars No. 5,	18 00
C. R. Pomeroy, care No. 1,	27 00
Lottie Evans, teaching No. 4,	67 50
Lester W. Darling, care No. 4,	4 50
— broom, for No. 4,	30
Nettie Evans, teaching No. 7,	67 50
Kate G. Mattoon, teaching No. 3,	67 50
Jennie S. Pierce, teaching No. 9,	67 50
Jennie S. Pierce, care No. 9,	3 60
Joseph Cosgrove, care No. 3,	3 50
Joseph Cosgrove, kindling wood No. 3,	1 00
— Kiernan, care No. 7,	4 65
Lucy Alexander, teaching No. 2,	72 00
Willie Alexander, care No. 2,	3 60
Thomas Quinlan, wood No. 1,	4 25

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

27

Boston School Supply Co., books,	\$19 38
Otis Fisher, care No. 5,	2 75
H. R. Crowell, supplies No. 9,	53
L. L. Pike, carrying scholars No. 6,	19 80
R. K. Caldwell, supplies No. 7,	3 84
	\$844 17

Books and Supplies.

Nettie Evans, broom, No. 7,	\$ 50
Boston School Supply Co., books,	34 54
George S. Perry & Co.,	38 19
J. L. Hammett,	2 61
J. L. Hammett,	4 65
American Book Co.,	15 96
American Crayon Co.,	1 44
Leach, Sherwell & Sanborn,	5 00
Prang Educational Co.,	11 82
Ginn & Co.,	102 23
Silver, Burdett & Co.,	44 60
Hildreth & Co.,	3 50
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.,	3 57
Lottie Evans, broom No. 7,	30
Newcomb Bros., broom,	1 25
American Express, C. Vt. Railroad, freight,	12 08
Allen Bros., flags and furnishings for Nos. 4-5-6,	18 85
George Callender, broom No. 3,	25
	\$301 34

Fuel.

F. W. Doane, coal and wood, No. 1,	\$67 50
George Stearns, wood, No. 6,	9 75
George Stearns, wood, No. 9,	16 25
Frank Piper, cutting wood, No. 6,	3 75
Ambrose Cosgrove, kindling, No. 3,	1 00
L. R. Smith, wood, No. 2,	16 00

William Merriman, wood, No. 3,	\$16 50
William Merriman, wood No. 4,	17 75
F. W. Doane, kindling wood, No. 2,	2 50
F. W. Doan, wood and coal, No. 1,	34 75
Clarence Stratton, cutting wood, No. 4;	2 19
George Field, cutting wood, No. 3,	2 06
James Greenwood, cutting wood, No. 7,	3 00
Clifford Holton, wood, No. 7,	3 50
C. R. Pomeroy, cutting wood, No. 1,	1 30
M. T. Moore, wood, No. 3,	2 25
F. B. Holton, cutting wood, No. 9,	8 15
C. I. Holton, wood, No. 7,	14 00
	\$222 20

Repairs.

F. W. Piper, No. 6,	\$2 50
Thomas Quinlan, timber, No. 1,	9 80
William Moore, improvements, No. 1,	69 72
William Moore, painting, No. 1,	25 02
William Moore, repairs, No. 1,	4 50
S. S. Richardson, repairs, No. 4,	1 00
F. W. Piper, repairs No. 6,	1 40
John Galvin, repairs on furnace, No. 1,	46 22
W. C. Reed, mason work, No. 3,	5 00
George L. Fuller, painting, No. 7,	36 83
George L. Fuller, painting, No. 4,	2 25
Charles H. Webster & Co., paint for No. 7,	29 24
O. H. Doolittle, repairs No. 7,	75
H. W. Montague, repairs, No. 4,	75
F. G. Stearns, repairs, No. 3,	50
F. G. Stearns, repairs, No. 1,	1 00
F. G. Stearns, repairs No. 9,	1 50
Lottie Evans, bell rope, No. 7,	35
M. T. Moore, repairs, No. 3,	1 55
R. K. Caldwell, repairs, No. 7 and 4,	5 27
F. G. Stearns, repairs, No. 3,	2 00
Daniel Driscoll, repairs, No. 1,	1 00
	\$248 15

Conveyance.

S. L. Pike, carrying scholars to District No. 6,	\$58 00	
Wm C. Fellows, carrying scholars in District No. 5,	42 00	
		\$100 00

Care of School Buildings.

Berton Ware, cleaning No. 3,	\$3 50	
Frank Piper, cleaning No. 6,	2 00	
Jennie Pierce, cleaning and care No. 9,	5 30	
Browning & Hastings, care No. 4,	11 40	
Minnie A. White, care No. 6,	2 75	
C. R. Pomeroy, care No. 1,	28 00	
Ambrose Cosgrove, care No. 3,	6 30	
James Broderick, cleaning house and yard No. 1,	6 00	
C. R. Pomeroy, care No. 1,	42 00	
Willie Alexander, care No. 2,	9 85	
Michael Cosgrove, grading No. 3,	5 00	
Otis Fisher, care No. 5,	3 50	
James Greenwood, care No. 7,	3 00	
Walter Doolittle, care No. 7,	9 35	
M. T. Moore, care Nos. 1 and 2,	7 00	
Jennie Pierce, care No. 9,	3 90	
Geo. Callender, care No. 3,	1 75	
Rosella Barton, care No. 6,	2 25	
Walter Doolittle, care No. 7,	1 35	
J. E. Warren, cash items,	1 70	
		\$155 90

Recapitulation.

Appropriations and receipts,		\$4,316 50
Old bills paid,	\$844 17	
Paid teachers two terms,	2,130 60	
Fuel,	222 20	
Repairs on buildings,	248 15	
Care of buildings,	155 90	

Text-books and supplies,	\$301 34	
Conveyance,	100 00	
Superintendent,	194 67	
Truant officer and medical inspector,	6 00	
		\$4,203 03
Expended on previous year's account,		844 17
Expenses current year,		\$3,358 86
Due current year (estimated),		858 00
		\$4,216 86

L. R. SMITH,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
N. M. WOOD,		
R. L. CALDWELL,		

Superintendent's Report.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

I have the honor to submit herewith the first annual District Superintendent's report on the condition of the Public Schools of Northfield. In this report it may not be amiss to discuss briefly the duties of a superintendent, the extent to which these duties have been performed in the last nine months, and the results thus far obtained. The only power given the superintendent by the laws of Massachusetts is that of signing labor certificates.

All other powers exercised by him must be delegated by the courtesy and good sense of the school committee.

The most important duties connected with the management of the schools are:

1. Selection of teachers.
2. Direction and training of teachers.
3. Arrangement of the course of study.
4. Selection of books and supplies.
5. Promotion and grading of pupils.
6. Control of attendance.
7. General oversight of buildings and furnishings.

The superintendent should bring to the consideration of these questions a knowledge of the most approved educational theories and practices of the day, for, if our schools are to get abreast of the times and keep there, it must be by a close study of the most efficient school systems of the world, and an adapta-

tion of the best features of these systems to the local needs and conditions. His action, in all matters, must be in accordance with the vote of the committee. Although all the results of this work do not appear upon the surface at once, a brief discussion of these points will show, in some degree, what has been done.

SELECTION OF TEACHERS.

This is the most important function of the school authorities, for "The school is and ever must be what the teacher is. It is impossible to raise the school to a higher plane than that on which the teacher stands." Teaching, like law, medicine and theology, is a profession requiring special aptitude and special training.

This professional training can best be obtained in the state normal or city training schools, but it may be acquired by study and experience under competent supervision. But something more than a good general education, or even a professional training, must be required of the teacher, for we recognize her influence in the formation of character. Children must be taught to do right from inward promptings, from right motives rather than from the fear of punishment.

To do this and receive the respect of the community, the teacher must exhibit in her own person a dignity, self-control and devotion to duty which will make her an example and inspiration to all.

At the end of the spring term, Mrs. Lizzie M. Caldwell resigned, after several years' faithful and efficient work in the Center Grammar school. The other teachers who have resigned during the year are: Misses Eulalia B. Gardner, Irene Hackett, Elizabeth Wassum and Alice M. Belden, from the Center schools, and Miss Minnie A. White, from No. 6.

With one exception all the new teachers employed have been normal or training school graduates. It is only by paying salaries commensurate with the character of the teaching that we can retain the services of our successful teachers.

DIRECTION AND TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

Since May 7, 1895, I have made 200 visits to the schools of Northfield, varying from one to three hours in length. In these visits I have studied the needs of each school and teacher, and endeavored by suggestion, model lesson, assistance in organization and classification, and by general advice, both to make the conditions more favorable for good work and the teacher better able to take advantage of these improved conditions.

I have tried to reach and arouse the whole body of teachers in a number of meetings, at which subjects of educational value have been considered. Two of the meetings have been addressed by State Agent G. T. Fletcher, and one each by Supervisors Henry T. Bailey and James Hall. The results of these efforts to increase the efficiency of our teachers can be seen by any impartial observer in the improved work done in the schools.

COURSE OF STUDY.

Formerly children of from five to twelve years of age spent practically the whole time in elementary drill on the three "R's," combined with long pauses devoted to idleness and mischief.

Now, with a properly arranged course of study and a good daily programme, we try, by making a profitable use of every minute of the school day, to cultivate habits of industry in the pupils, to arouse their minds to activity, and at the same time furnish knowledge which will be of practical use to them in the common walks of life.

With these ends in view, the "Course of Studies for Elementary Schools," which was prepared under the direction of the State Board of Education, has, with some modifications, been used in our schools.

I also prepared a language course which, beginning with the entrance of the child into school, aims to accustom him to the correct and fluent use of English.

In this course much attention is given to the writing of letters, receipts, bills, advertisements, notices, telegrams, newspaper paragraphs and general composition work.

Technical grammar is reserved for the last two years of the course. I hope soon to present an outline for the study of history in all the grades of our schools.

Instruction in vocal music has been added to the curriculum. The encouraging progress made during the year leads me to hope that the benefits to be derived from the study will be extended to all the pupils in the town.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

The average yearly cost per pupil for books and supplies in the state, since the passage of the free text book law, has been \$1.63. Northfield has expended \$1.33 per scholar in the last year. Fry's Advanced Geographies, Prince's Arithmetics, Montgomery's Histories, and a few Riverside Primers have been introduced with highly satisfactory results. The great need of our schools in the line of supplies is more varied and better reading matter, especially in the lower grades. Reading is the most important subject taught. It may be said to be the key to all other subjects. Books should be furnished which will supply interesting and valuable information on natural history, geography and history, or, such as will develop a taste for good literature. Children can be led, at an early age, to take pleasure in the writings of such authors as Longfellow, Whittier, Bryant, Holmes, Lowell and Irving.

PROMOTIONS.

The ability of pupils to perform more and better work should be the chief requirement for promotion from class to class, and for entrance into the High School. As this ability is better indicated by the average daily work than by the good or bad luck which may attend the pupil's efforts in a final examination, I would recommend that excellence in daily work be made the condition for promotion.

ATTENDANCE.

As the schools are still in session, it is impossible to give complete statistics of attendance.

There has been a steady gain in this respect during the year, but there is still room for improvement. Tardiness is tolerated by no employer, and is considered by society a breach of etiquette. It is not so much the five or ten minutes lost, but the bad habit which is being formed by the children which is to be regretted.

Parents ought also to realize more fully the importance of the child's constant attendance.

Frequent absence for trivial reasons retards the progress and lessens the interest of the pupil, the class and the school.

BUILDINGS AND FURNISHINGS.

During the year an effort has been made to better the sanitary conditions of the school buildings, and thus improve the moral as well as the physical environment of our children.

All of the school buildings need more and better blackboards. It is to be hoped that something may be done each year to supply this lack.

CONCLUSION.

I would urge that the parents exert themselves to visit the schools, that they may see what is being done for their children. The parents should talk freely with the teacher and superintendent, and there should be a bond of sympathy between them.

I should be pleased at any time to discuss school matters with those interested, and would be very grateful for suggestions in regard to improvements. It is only by working together that the best results are secured.

At this time I wish to thank the committee, parents, teachers and pupils for their hearty co-operation during the period I have worked with them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. WARREN.

Library Report.

FOR THE YEAR CLOSING FEB. 14, 1896.

Number of volumes in library last report,	3,830
Number of volumes purchased past year,	130
Number of volumes presented past year,	53
Total,	<u>4,013</u>

Number of families. patrons of library,	184	
Number of visitors. patrons of library,	5	
Number of volumes taken by families,		4,230
Number of volumes taken by public schools,		133
Number of volumes taken by visitors,		15
Total,		<u>4,378</u>

Amount of fines collected,	\$8 37	
Amount of fees from visitors,	75	
Total,		<u>\$9 12</u>

Paid for incidentals, \$3 10

Balance, \$6 02

Uncollected fines, 95

LIBRARY COMMITTEE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

DR.

To cash on hand last report,	\$27 69	
To appropriation for books,	100 00	
To appropriation for Librarian and incidentals,	75 00	
To appropriation for additional shelf room,	50 00	
To cash received from fines,	6 02	
	<u></u>	\$258 71

CR.

May 23.	Paid C. A. Nichols & Co., books,	\$30 00
May 31.	Paid Library Bureau, labels,	75
June 3.	Paid Clapp & Jones, covering-paper,	1 20
June 5.	Paid express,	1 15
June 15.	Paid express,	30
July 5.	Paid W. M. Moore, materials and labor,	28 13
July 7.	Paid express,	50
July 8.	Paid DeWolfe, Fiske & Co., books,	113 47
July 15.	Paid chair for library,	1 75
Sept. 2.	Paid E. L. Hildreth & Co., catalogue supplements,	6 00
Feb. 12.	Paid librarian's salary,	65 00
Feb. 12.	By balance in hands of committee,	10 46

 \$258 71

GEO. F. PIPER,	}	<i>Library Committee.</i>
R. C. WARD,		
N. P. WOOD,		

